

## Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 32

19<sup>th</sup> May 2023



[www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk](http://www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk)



@thomasjohnsonlowerschool

### Headteacher's Introduction

We started this week with a healthy dose of inspiration courtesy of our visiting speaker, **Mark Smith**.

Mark is an army veteran and a former Royal Grenadier Guard. In fact, he previously served as one of Queen Elizabeth II's Royal Guards! He also served in the military on tours of Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. At the age of 26, whilst on active duty, Mark was shot seven times in his leg and twice in his arm. After 27 different operations, surgeons had no option but to amputate Mark's right leg.

During the first round of surgeries Mark was kept in a coma for several months - and during this time he missed the birth of his first child. When he awoke and was able to meet his son for the first time, Mark became determined to make sure he lived his life to the fullest.

He entered the world of disabled bodybuilding and won a number of regional competitions. Mark then transitioned into the sport of Strongman. He went on to be crowned Britain's Strongest Disabled Man in 2016 and 2017 - and the World's Strongest Disabled Man in 2017 and 2018.

During this time, Mark also set the world record time for a disabled athlete to pull two lorries over a 20-metre distance.

Not yet finished with his achievements, Mark is currently the Captain of Chelsea Football Club's Amputee Team - and has represented England for amputee football.

In his assembly, Mark talked about how he overcame setbacks, the importance of determination and how being as positive as you can in any situation can help you achieve what others might think is impossible.

The children asked Mark some really interesting questions about his life and his journey - and in the afternoon they enjoyed watching some video clips of his exploits. Mark was very complementary about our children and he commented on how engaged and interested they were.

The **Year of Inspiration** is for all of 2023 - and we have even more exciting, interesting and inspiring visitors lined up for our children...

*Simon Bolger*  
**Headteacher**

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### Bake Off Winners

Thank you to everyone who mixed, whisked and baked to help make the first ever Great Lidlington Bake Off a rip-roaring success. We counted a total of 36 entries. All the accompanying recipe sheets will be prepared into a recipe book that we will distribute to the school community for free.

After an extensive and rigorous judging session, the cakes made by the following children were awarded first, second and third place:

1<sup>st</sup> - Gia  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Arthur  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Elliott

My special thanks to two of our governors - Mr Tawell and Miss Senior - for their efforts in judging and tasting every single cake.

### Hedgehogs - Pre-School and Reception Change of Collection

Due to a fault with the external door that Hedgehogs (*Pre-School and Reception*) use, we will now be using the external hall door off the front patio area for Hedgehog children to enter and exit the school.

There is just a minor fault with the door and should hopefully be rectified in no time.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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### SPLAT - Stay, Play, Learn All Together

Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to join us in school on Wednesday morning for our SPLAT session.

The purpose of this session is to allow you to see your child's classroom and for them to show off their learning achievements and progress to you.

This is just one of the ways we want to enable you as parents and carers to see the progress your child is making over the course of the year.

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### Class Photos - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

A photographer will be visiting us on Monday morning to take photos of each class in the school.

As they should every day, please make sure your child is wearing the correct school uniform for their photo.

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### Schools for the Future

In the last week, a statutory consultation has been launched to gather the views of the general public about the change of education provision in Central Bedfordshire from a three-tier to two-tier system.

This would see TJLS become a primary school which would cater for children from Reception up to Year 6. Under the current plan, we intend to continue with our pre-school provision. Alongside this change of age range, the proposal would also see us increase our PAN (*Pupil Admission Number*) from 18 to 30.

What this means is that in September 2025 (*when the change of age range and expansion begins*) we would have 30 spaces in our Reception class and we will open our first ever Year 5 class (*this Year 5 class would be our current Year 2 children*). For this to happen we would need some building work to take place to give us the space we need to meet this requirement.

We would then have 30 spaces in our Reception intake every year after this. This means that there will be no increase of year group sizes for any of our current cohorts of children.

The school would eventually reach a capacity of 210 children (*30 in each year group*) when the first cohort of 30 Reception children in 2025 reaches Year 6. This would be in 2031.

All the information about the proposal, the consultation and how to give your feedback on the plan can be found on the Schools for the Future website here: [Cranfield area – Schools for the future](#)

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### Weekly Awards

This week's winners are:

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Sportsperson of the Week
Reception	Skye	Isabella	Harley
Year 1	Monty	Leo	Grace
Year 2	Brooklyn	Cerys	Emily
Year 3	Beth	Flora	Bella
Year 4	Freddie	Summer	Jaydn

This week's **Golden Brush** winner for having the tidiest classroom and learning area is **Year 4 - Eagles**.

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### Silver Awards - 40 House Points

Well done to:

- Arthur and Dylan - Reception
- Leo, Benji, Jozefina and Amberley - Y1
- James, Tabatha, Savannah, Lolade, Jack, Thomas and Everly - Y2
- Mila - Y3
- Elliott, Oscar and Scarlet - Y4

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## Gold Award - 60 House Points

Well done to:

- Flora and Noah - Y3
- Summer - Y4

## House Points

In the Summer term the House Shield is awarded to the House that has collected the most House Points overall for the academic year. The current standings for the whole year are:



850 points



897 points



827 points



885 points

The last day to collect House Points will be Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July, with the overall winner announced in assembly on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July. The winning House will have a 'House Colour Day' on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July. With just 40 points separating all four Houses - it really is all to play for in this final term!

## Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Whole school attendance  
for this week - **96%**  
(National attendance is **96.4%**)

Duggee The Every Day Dog  
Awarded to the class with the best attendance all  
week.

Hedgehogs - Reception - 99%

## Mental Health Awareness - How to talk to your child about mental health

Giving our children opportunities to open up is one of the biggest things we can do as parents and carers to support their wellbeing.

Follow the link for tips and ideas for talking to your child about mental health:

[How to Talk to Your Child about Mental Health | YoungMinds](#)

See the poster below to see questions you can ask to get the conversation going.

## Questions to ask your child



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# Looking After Your WELLBEING ONLINE


We all know that taking care of our minds and bodies is essential to keep us feeling happy and healthy. The thing is, we spend so much of our time online these days that it's also important that we remember to look after ourselves in the digital world, too. Our poster has got some simple but useful tips for supporting your wellbeing while you're gaming, on social media or just using the Internet.



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**Dates for your diary - new dates added will be highlighted in yellow**

1 <sup>st</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup> May	KS1 SATs period
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of half term
5 <sup>th</sup> June	School reopens for Summer 2
5 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplication Screening Period
12 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Period
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Coffee Morning
21 <sup>st</sup> June	New Reception starter information session - 1.30pm
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day Backup should there be poor weather
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Art Week
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition morning - meet your new teacher
12 <sup>th</sup> July	School Picnic
14 <sup>th</sup> July	PTFA Inflatable Fun Day
14 <sup>th</sup> July	End of year reports sent out to parents and carers
17 <sup>th</sup> July	SPLAT - your child can share their learning from this year with you - 3.20-3.50pm
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition morning - meet your new teacher
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Leaving Assembly - 9.15am
21 <sup>st</sup> July	School closes for summer holidays

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